



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546



Office of the
Commissioner

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Public Hearing – Wednesday, March 3, 2010 Transportation Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Joseph F. Marie Department of Transportation

S.B. 342 – An Act Concerning the Issuance of a Certificate for the Operation of a Taxicab and the Establishment of a Penalty for the Operation of a “Gypsy” Cab.

The Department of Transportation (Department) offers the following comments on S.B. 342, AAC the Issuance of a Certificate for the Operation of a Taxicab and the Establishment of a Penalty for the Operation of a “Gypsy” Cab.

The Department is opposed to the change in Section 1 which requires the Department to consider the effect of issuing a certificate upon existing certificate holders. The statutes already require an applicant to prove public convenience and necessity. An assessment of current operators in the proposed service area is implied in that type of review and justification.

The Department is supportive of Section 2(b) of the bill regarding the gypsy cab provision and has in fact applied CGS 13b-103 (e) of the livery statutes to all unauthorized operators, to deter livery gypsy operators. Incorporating language into S.B. 342 similar to that in CGS 13b-103(e) to deter taxi gypsy operators is recommended.

CGS 13b-103(e) Any person who holds him or herself out to be the operator of a motor vehicle in livery service who has not received a permit under this section or with the intent to injure or defraud another shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

S.B. 342 also makes taxicab violations a class A misdemeanor. The Department believes there should be consistencies between the taxi and livery statutes insofar as penalties. Within this bill the penalty level is set at \$100 in section 1(c) and at the \$1000 level in section 2(a)(1). The civil penalty for livery violations is established at \$1,000 per violation. The Department believes the civil penalty for taxicab violations should also be set at the \$1000 level. This would help increase voluntary taxicab compliance. Certificate holders currently have very little incentive to comply voluntarily.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at 860-594-3013.